Rail revenue through advertising

4711. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made on the project for using rail track sidings for advertising purposes and earning revenues from it; and

(b) how much revenue has been earned uptil now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Comprehensive guidelines regarding commercial publicity which include sites along railway track have been issued to Zonal Railways. An amount of Rs. 42.25 crores (approx.) has been earned from commercial publicity including publicity along the railway track during the year 2000-2001.

Touts connection with APS to Ex-Railway Minister

4712. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item "Mamata leaves her cloud in Railway Ministry; Assistant PS was 'in league' with touts in Indian Express" dated 4th April, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted against the concerned Assistant Personal Secretary;

(d) if so, the findings thereof and action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The enquiry into the misuse of Emergency Quota from Minister for Railway's (MR.) residence by unauthorised agents was conducted by Railway vigilance before the report was published in the "Indian Express".

(d) and (e) It was found that the then Assistant Personal Secretary (APS) to MR had signed the requisition slips for release of berths from the Emergency Quota in these cases. However, it is difficult to attach any motive on the part of the then APS to MR. The requisitions were perhaps signed in good faith as he also has to deal with other public who might come to seek help from the Minister. Moreover, he is no more in the office and not being a government servant, no departmental action is possible.

Irregularities in CSIR

4713. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Comptroller and Auditor General Report (No. 5 of 2000) pinpoints various irregularities by the top officials in Council of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(b) whether copies of an article appearing in Business India, No. 556, 1999 about the Director General of CSIR, is reprinted on Lucky Art Paper at National Institute of Science Communication, CSIR, at the expense of public money;

(c) whether Director, National Institute of Science Communications used the staff and facilities for private function at Delhi during November, 2000; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No Sir, examination of the report by CSIR has revealed that there may have been irregular expenditure of around Rs. 38 lakh only, out of an audited expenditure of Rs. 10,000 lakh.

(b) Yes Sir, the article referred to was about the transformation in CSIR in recent years and the role played by its Director-General in this process. The selective circulation of the cover article appearing in a business magazine of repute was considered to be in the interest of CSIR in view of the fact that the story in the magazine represented a